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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5538
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2079
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4498
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1160
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 2864
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5667
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7907
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1776
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - DPRK

LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning media gave top play to the major earthquake which struck Niigata, Nagano and other prefectures, killing at least eight persons and injuring 900 others.

11. "Continue Pressure on DPRK Nuclear Disablement" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri editorialized (7/17): "... North Korea declared it has shut down its Yongbyon nuclear facilities. IAEA Director General ElBaradei said IAEA inspectors, visiting the Yongbyon complex, confirmed the facilities' shutdown.... If and when IAEA inspectors seal the shut-down North Korean nuclear facilities, it will be able to apply the brake, for the time being, on the production of plutonium, which could be used to produce nuclear weapons. Nonetheless, it is always possible to reactivate shut-down nuclear reactors. The North has a history of going back on the 1994 Agreed Framework, expelling IAEA inspectors from the Yongbyon complex and of unsealing and reactivating its nuclear facilities. As a result, the North Koreans have since produced amounts of plutonium equivalent to manufacturing 10 nuclear weapons and even conducted a nuclear test. The North cannot be allowed to repeat such things."

12. "Aim of 6-Party Talks is DPRK's Nuclear Disablement" An editorial in the business-oriented Nihon Keizai commented (7/17): "... IAEA Director General ElBaradei's remarks confirming the shutdown of the Yongbyon nuclear complex is no more than the start of 'initial steps' toward denuclearization.... In a sense, the North Korean shutdown this time of the Yongbyon

complex was a mere reversion to its status about 25 years ago, being far from a thorough abandonment of its nuclear development programs. Under the present circumstances, the six nations will have to open the way to the 'next step' toward denuclearization at a meeting of chief delegates to the six-party talks opening Wednesday in Beijing.... About 950,000 tons of heavy heating oil and humanitarian relief goods will be offered to North Korea in exchange for the North's thorough disclosure of its nuclear programs and disablement of all its nuclear facilities. It is only natural that Japan should abide by the position of not giving any assistance to the North without progress on the abduction issue."

SCHIEFFER